

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00371 01 OF 02 130312Z

71

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

AID-05 TRSE-00 IO-11 CU-02 BIB-01 OES-03 IGA-02 OMB-01

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R 130016Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6072

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

DIA WASH DC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0371

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LA, VN

SUBJECT: LAO PARTY AND GOVERNMENT VISIT TO VIET-NAM

REF A VIENTIANE 0262 (020512Z FEB 76), B VIENTIANE 0289
(041028Z FEB 76)

SUMMARY. THE LAO PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATION LED
BY SECRETARY GENERAL AND PRIME MINISTER KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN,
RETURNED TO VIENTIANE FEBRUARY 11 AFTER A FIVE-DAY
STAY IN THE CAPITAL OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
VIET-NAM. WHILE THERE THE LAO WERE RECEIVED AT THE
HIGHEST LEVEL AND APPARENTLY ENJOYED THE FULL TREATMENT
RESERVED FOR FRIENDLY AND HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS. THERE
WERE NO GREAT SURPRISES OR STARTLING REVELATIONS DURING
THE VISIT, BUT WE HAVE OUTLINED BELOW A NUMBER OF
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00371 01 OF 02 130312Z

STATEMENTS THAT WE BELIEVE WORTHY OF NOTE. ALL IN ALL

THE VISIT APPEARED TO BE A CELEBRATION OF THE VICTORIES ACHIEVED BY BOTH THE VIETNAMESE AND LAO COMMUNISTS IN THE STRUGGLE THEY HAVE WAGED TOGETHER DURING THE LAST THIRTY YEARS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE UNITED STATES: AS USUAL IN SUCH GET-TOGETHERS, THE UNITED STATES WAS BLAMED FOR MOST OF THE WORLD'S ILLS. THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE, NOT YET PUBLISHED IN VIENTIANE AS OF FEBRUARY 12, CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC FORMULATION DEALING WITH THE UNITED STATES: "THE TWO SIDES SEVERELY CONDEMN THE FORD ADMINISTRATION FOR CARRYING OUT THE PACIFIC DOCTRINE, CONTINUING TO RELY ON U.S. STRENGTH, USING JAPAN FOR ITS DARK SCHEMES AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE ALLIANCE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS -- ASEAN -- TO SABOTAGE AND DIVIDE REVOLUTIONARY FORCES IN AN ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN ITS REMAINING POSITIONS, CONTINUE ITS NEO-COLONIALIST POLICY AND OPPOSE THE VIETNAMESE, LAO AND COMBODIAN REVOLUTIONS AND THE MOVEMENT FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE TWO SIDES RESOLUTELY DEMAND THAT THE UNITED STATES WITHDRAW ALL ITS FORCES FROM AND DISMANTLE ALL U.S. MILITARY BASES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA."

2. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF AMERICAN AID TO LAOS IN THE COMMUNIQUE, BUT KAYSONE IN HIS MAJOR SPEECH IN HANOI ON FEBRUARY 8 SAID: " THE UNITED STATES MUST GIVE UP ITS HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARD LAOS AND CONTRIBUTE TO HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR IN LAOS."

3. THAILAND: THE COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED THE USUAL AND OBVIOUS COMMUNIST CONTRADICTION REGARDING RELATIONS WITH THAILAND. ON ONE HAND, IT STATED THAT LAOS AND VIET-NAM DESIRED "FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT FOR INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, MUTUAL NON-AGGRESSION, NON-INTERVENTION IN EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, EQUALITY, MUTUAL BENEFIT AND PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE." ON THE OTHER, IT STATED THAT THE TWO NATIONS SUPPORT "THE STRUGGLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 VIENTI 00371 01 OF 02 130312Z

OF THE THAI PEOPLE FOR A TRULY INDEPENDENT AND DEMOCRATIC THAILAND WITHOUT U.S. MILITARY BASES AND FORCES." IN HANOI AND VIENTIANE'S LEXICON, "TRULY

INDEPENDENT AND DEMOCRATIC" COUNTRIES CAN ONLY BE COMMUNIST ONES. THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS HAVE DEMONSTRATED OVER THE YEARS THAT THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE THAI COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IS MATERIAL AS WELL AS MORAL.

4. FOREIGN AFFAIRS POSITIONS: THE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED HANOI'S AND VIENTIANE'S SUPPORT FOR THE USUAL LEFTIST INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS ON A NUMBER OF FASHIONABLE TOPICS, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR THE MPLA GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA.

5. BILATERAL RELATIONS: BESIDE THE USUAL GUSHING REFERENCES TO EACH OTHER AND PLEDGES OF MUTUAL AFFECTION AND FIDELITY, THE COMMUNIQUE MENTIONED SEVERAL ACTIONS THAT THE TWO NATIONS WILL TAKE. THESE ARE:

A. "STRENGTHEN RELATIONS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND MAKE EXCHANGES IN THE CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, PUBLIC HEALTH, AVIATION, POSTAL, NEWS SERVICE, PRESS, RADIO BROADCASTING, CINEMATOGRAPHIC, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS AND OTHER FIELDS."

B. "SET UP A JOINT VIETNAMESE-LAO COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION."

C. "APPOINT ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL DELEGATIONS TO DISCUSS AND CARRY OUT COOPERATION PLANS."

D. "BUILD A ROAD FROM LAOS TO THE VIETNAMESE COAST."

E. "THE VIETNAMESE SIDE WILL HELP LUMS TO TRAIN CADRES FOR THE ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SECTORS."

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00371 02 OF 02 130316Z

71

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R 130016Z FEB 76
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0371

6. HO CHI MINH TRAIL: IN HIS FEBRUARY 8 SPEECH
KAYSONE MADE AN UNUSUAL ADMISSION FOR AN INDOCHINESE
COMMUNIST WHEN HE BOASTED THAT THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL
HAD EXISTED AND THAT IT WAS IN LAOS. HE TOLD HIS
VIETNAMESE AUDIENCE: "WE ARE VERY ELATED AND PROUD

OF THE FACT THAT IN THE EASTERN PART OF OUR COUNTRY
AN IMPORTANT ROAD NAMED AFTER PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH
HAS CONTRIBUTED TO CREATING MANY FAVORABLE CONDITIONS
FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH VIET-NAM."

7. COMMENT: THE VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE REAFFIRMED
PUBLICLY THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP THAT EXISTS BETWEEN
THE VIETNAMESE AND THE LAO COMMUNISTS, WHO AFTER ALL
HAVE BEEN CLOSE ASSOCIATES FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS.
THE COMMUNIQUE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATING WHEN IT
STATED THAT " THE TWO SIDES WERE UNANIMOUS ON ALL
ISSUES RAISED." AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00371 02 OF 02 130316Z

FROM THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE DURING THE VISIT THAT
THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS, IN SPITE OF THEIR DOMINA-
TION OF THEIR LAO COMRADES, WISH TO CREATE AN INDO-
CHINESE FEDERATION OR A STATE -TO-STATE RELATIONSHIP
THAT WOULD APPEAR TO DIFFER FROM THE NORMAL ONE BETWEEN
TWO SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT NATIONS. OF COURSE, AS
THE VIETNAMESE HAVE DEMONSTRATED IN SOUTH VIET-NAM,
WHAT COUNTS IS THE PARTY RELATIONSHIP, AND VIETNAMESE
DOMINATION OF THE LAO PARTY APPEARS ALMOST
TOTAL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VIENTI00371
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760054-0966
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760248/aaaabpym.tel
Line Count: 217
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <01 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAO PARTY AND GOVERNMENT VISIT TO VIET-NAM
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, LA, VN, PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF LAOS, PDRL, (KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006